

22 January 1971

Dear Harold,

I think that I may have given you a bum steer on that 10/3/63 date. After corresponding with Mary Ferrell on the matter of the books borrowed by Oswald from the New Orleans public library, I realized that I may have given the wrong interpretation to the column heading "Card Shows Return Date" in CE 2650. Whereas I took this to mean the date on which the books were actually returned, Mary feels that what is meant is the date on which the books were due back for return. If she is right, and she may well be, then Oswald did not return books on 10/3/63 but borrowed books at an earlier date which were due back on 10/3/63 but which he might have returned earlier.

Mary also called my attention to a CE which I had forgotten, an undated letter written but not mailed by Oswald, to the New Orleans library, contesting the allegation that he had failed to return certain borrowed books (see CE 1403 in XXII page 767).

My "discovery" is therefore, at best, ambiguous and may not be of real significance in terms of Oswald's whereabouts or the other possibilities we discussed when I phoned you.

At the risk of giving you another bum steer, let me repeat something I heard the other night from a stranger whom I met through a mutual friend. When the conversation turned to the JFK assassination, this man told us that a few days after 11/22/63 he had met socially a former Secret Service agent (retired after some 20 years in the SS). They had of course talked about the events in Dallas, which were quite fresh at the time, and during the conversation the ex-agent had insisted that until Dallas, James Rowley, the head of the SS, always and without exception had accompanied every president on every trip and taken personal charge of security. The ex-agent also said that it was standard operating procedure throughout his tenure in the SS for an advance party in the city to be visited to go to every building along a motorcade route and speak to the superintendent or owner, to ensure (1) that the occupants would be forbidden to open windows during the motorcade, and (2) an agent would be posted on the roof.

I am repeating this, for what it is worth. It may or may not be accurate information.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Edgar' or similar, written in a cursive style.